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STATEMENT OF JAMES E. WEBB, NASA ADMINISTRATOR
12:00 Noon November 9, 1967

The Apollo/Saturn launch this morning represents a successful demonstration of the devotion and high quality workmanship of over 300,000 men and women in thousands of industrial plants, laboratories, test facilities, universities and government installations. It also represents a demonstration of the high quality that has gone into the design, the construction and preparation for today's use of Launch Complex 39 at Cape Kennedy -- composed of the world's largest machines, building and automated systems for double and triple checking vital elements of high performance in mechanical and electrical systems. This complex has cost \$500 million and will be of great value for at least the next 50 years.

In a few hours we will have another vital test of another set of systems -- those which have been designed to permit men to return to the earth from distances as far as the Moon and at speeds of seven miles-per-second.

The events of the space age, including today's use of massive power to lift $6\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds from the earth and attain speeds of 25,000 miles-per-hour, have demonstrated what we will be up against if we drop too far behind. The Apollo/Saturn project is being carried out to develop our ability to launch very large machines into earth orbit, to check them out to be sure all is in working order, and then send them outward to the Moon and planets. It will also enable us to bring back to the earth samples of the Moon and measurements of the planets. These abilities are vital to give this Nation the advanced aeronautical and space capabilities it will certainly need in every field of technology. Our hope to achieve a peaceful world means that we must be able to move through the air and use the medium of space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind. Big aeronautical and space machines are necessary to do the big jobs ahead.

At NASA we know we will need more than one perfect launch to make sure that we can efficiently use such big machines as the Apollo/Saturn system, and bring into play the new powers they represent to help achieve the kind of world the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 set as the objective for this agency. We will proceed as rapidly as possible to develop the full potential of the Apollo/Saturn system to achieve these ends.

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The launch today is but the first step in proving out the end result of many years' work. Its success will permit us to move more rapidly on to a second launch and to all the other tests necessary to show that man can now reach out from the earth toward the stars for a better understanding and use of the forces and opportunities which are present in our own solar system and in other parts of the universe.

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